### CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT			
SUBJECT	South Plowdiv Airfield	DATE DISTR.	21 January 1955	25 <b>X</b> 1	
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- Construction on the airfield was started in 1952 and completed in 1953.
   During August and September 1954, large quantities (approximately 15 carloads) of construction materials (cement, iron and steel beams, etc.) were unloaded and stored at the airfield. No details are available; however, it is assumed that considerable expansion of the field will start in early 1955.
- 2. The airfield is located nine kilometers southeast of the South-Plovdiv railroad station, between the Plovdiv-Asenovgrad railroad line and the Plovdiv-Asenovgrad road. It is rectangular in shape, and the longer side runs in a northeast-southwest direction. The field is 3000 meters long and 1500 meters wide.
- 3. Two concrete runways (length: 3100 meters; width: 50 meters each) (# 1 on Appendix) run diagonally from the north to south, and east to west corners of the airfield. These runways cross in the center of the field.
- 4. A taxing strip (length: 1400 meters; width: 25 meters) (# 2), with a stone foundation, is located 150 meters inside the southwest side of the field.
- 5. North of each hangar (# 4) thore is an 80 X 100 meter asphalt hard stand (# 3). Hard stands are also found on each side of the field (# 7); these are also covered with asphalt.
- 6. The hangars (# 4) are located 100 meters inside the southwest side of the airfield. They are 250 meters from both the south and west corners of the field. There are four hangars, each 75 X 40 meters, with concrete frames, corrugated sheet roofs and steel-plated doors opening toward the field.

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- 2 - 25X1

- 7. The headquarters (# 5) is a 60 X 20 meter, flat-roofed, stone building located among the hangars on the west side of the airfield. A 20-meter control tower is mounted on the flat roof of the building. The southwest side of this tower is rectangular, while its east side is semi-circular and completely enclosed in glass. The roof of the tower is flat.
- 8. Three storage buildings can be found at the north corner of the field (# 6).
- 9. The barracks (# 9) are located east of the repair shops (# 8). These barracks extend 250 meters from the north corner of the field along the northwest side. Included in this group of barracks are eight onestory and eight two-story buildings, all of which are 50 X 20 meters, four rows of garages, and six storehouses. The repair shops consist of the following:
  - a. Four 80 X 40 meter assembly shops with iron frames and corrugated sheet roofs and walls;
  - b. Three 30 X 10 meter workshops;
  - c. One two-story office building, 40 X 15 meters;
  - d. One 40 X 15 meter test shop;
  - e. Eight one-story storage buildings; and
  - f. A boiler house.

There are no airplane stalls (Flugzeugstäde). These shops are surrounded by barbed wire.

10. The central gasoline storage tanks (# 10) are located in an area 300 X 150 meters, surrounded by barbed wire, in the center of the north side of the field. These are underground tanks made of iron plates. The number and capacity of these storage tanks is unknown.

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there are eight tanks. Three small pumping houses and a one-story hut are located in this area. The aircraft are usually refuelled from gasoline trucks on the field. A branch of the industrial railroad runs directly to the storage tanks.

11. At the northeast corner of the barracks there are six huts of corrugated sheet construction, that contain the ammunition. It is assumed that only the emergency ammunition is kept here

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- 12. There is no separate radar station on the airfield. However, a permanent radar station was observed on Kaloyanov Hill, southwest of the field and directly north of Hill 800. No further details are available.
- 13. The radio station is located in the control tower. It is believed to be an ultra-shortwave station. A spherical antenna (two meters in diameter) and an instrument made of wire mesh, in the shape of a segment of a circle (3.5 meters long and 1.5 meters high) are mounted on the top of the tower. This latter instrument is believed to have some connection with instrument flying. No further details.
- 14. A meteorological station (# 14) is located 500 meters northwest of the north corner of the field where the Plovdiv-Dimitrovgrad and Plovdiv-Asenovgrad railroad lines meet. The meteorological station is housed in a concrete block building.
- 15. Firing positions of the automatic cannons are as follows:

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- a. A concrete emplacement near the barracks and workshops (#8);
- A concrete emplacement in the triangle formed by the Plovdiv-Asenovgrad and Plovdiv-Krumovo railroad lines;
- On the south side of the field, 300 meters north of the south corner;
- d. On the southeast side, 150 meters from the field; and
- e. On the south side, 150 meters southwest of the east corner.
- 16. Firing positions of the antiaircraft artillery (# 13) are located between the barracks and the central gasoline storage tanks. This concrete emplacement can hold an anti-aircraft battery of four guns.
- 17. The transmission line (# 15) from the power station in Plovdiv runs along the west side of the field. The airfield has its own substation located in the boiler house of the workshops. The boiler house provides the central heating for the barracks.
- 18. The airfield is lighted by searchlights mounted on trucks. No further details are available.
- 19. The Plovdiv-Asenovgrad concrete road runs along the west side of the field. A branch road runs to the barracks and to the central gasoline storage tanks. The industrial railroad track branches off from the Plovdiv-Asenovgrad line, 500 meters south of Krumovo. This track divides into two sections: one runs to the workshops and the other to the gasoline storage tanks.
- 20. The staff at the airfield consists of 30 officers and 30 noncoms, and is headed by a Soviet Air Force Colonel. This staff supervises the airfields within the Bucharest (Rumania) district.
- 21. The following units are stationed at the airfield:
  - a. A fighter aircraft division command consisting of: 25X1
    - (1) An operations staff;
    - (2) A headquarters company;
    - (3) An anti-aircraft artillery division with three batteries; each battery consisting of six 37-mm antiaircraft automatic cannons;
    - (4) A workshop company;
    - (5) A signal battalion (radar, radio and directional company; probably Direction Finder or Ground Control Approach);
    - (6) A supply battalion; and
    - (7) A medical unit.
  - b. A fighter aircraft regiment consisting of three squadrons: two FALCON (MIG-15) squadrons and one FRANK (YAK-9) squadron.
  - c. An aircraft service battalion, consisting of four companies: signal, guard, workshop, and searchlight companies.

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d. A main aircraft repair shop employing 150 troops and 200 civilians with duties as follows:

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- 4 -

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- Overhauling of aircraft;
- Replacing engines;
- Testing replacement engines in the workshop; and
- (4) Installing aircraft parts (these come from the USSR by rail).
- 22. The following aircraft were observed at the airfield:
  - a. 36 FALCONS;
  - b. 19 FRANKS;
  - c. 6 CABS; (LI-2); and
  - d. 2 ARADO 96.

The bulk of the activities at the field are performed by the fighter aircraft regiment. The FALCONS are in the air from morning to night, practicing flying in groups of two, three, and four. The aircraft are never in the air more than one-half hour at one time and when they land, new crews always take over the flying. This flying goes on no matter what the weather is like; even in bad, windy, and rainy weather.

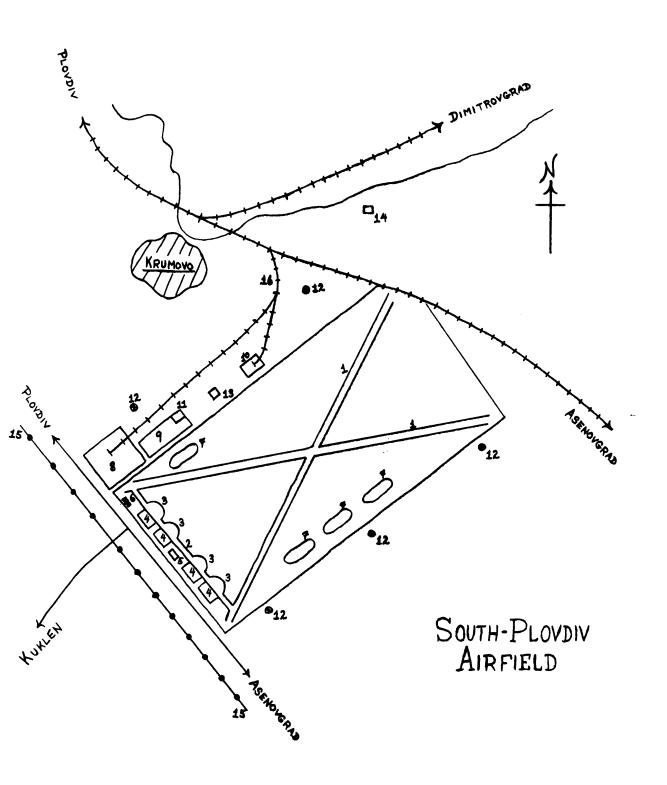
#### LEGEND TO SKETCH:

- 1. Concrete Runways
- 2. Taxiing Strip
- 3. Parking Areas 4. Hangars
- 5. Headquarters building
- 6. Storage buildings
- 7. Parking Areas for aircraft8. Repair or workshops
- 9. Barracks
- 10. Central Gasoline Storage Tanks
- 11. Ammunition Depots
- 12. Firing positions for Automatic Cannons
- 13. Firing positions for antiaircraft cannons
  14. Meteorological station
- 15. Transmission lines
- 16. Industrial railroad track

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- 5 -

# APPENDIX



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